

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated May 26, 2004, in which claims 1-2, 4-5, 11, 13-14, 18 and 19 were rejected and claims 3, 6-10, 12, 15-17 and 20 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Amendments have been made to claims 1, 11 and 18 and claims 3, 12 and 20 have been cancelled.

With this Amendment, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims in view of the above-amendments and following remarks.

I. AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS 1, 11 AND 18

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-2, 4-5, 11, 13-14, 18 and 19 were rejected under §102(b) as being anticipated by Prabhu et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,870,323. Further, claims 3, 6-10, 12, 15-17 and 20 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Office Action indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

Accordingly, independent claims 1, 11 and 18 have been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter contained in claims 3, 12 and 20, respectively. Applicants have canceled claims 3, 12 and 20 as the limitations contained in these claims are now contained in independent claims 1, 11 and 18, respectively.


Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 11 and 18 are now in allowable form. Further, Applicants submit that dependent claims 2, 4-10, 13-17 and 19 are also in allowable form. Applicants respectfully note that many of the dependent claims contain subject matter that is independently patentable.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-2, 4-11, and 13-19.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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